

## AN ASTOR SCANDAL.

J. Coleman Drayton Challenges Hallett Borrows to a Duel.

They Are Passengers on the Majestic, and May Fight at Sea.

Mrs. Drayton, Wife of the Challenger, Is William Astor's Daughter.

One of the most sensational domestic scandals ever known in New York fashion society is brought to light to-day. It involves the families of acknowledged society leadrs of New York and Philadelphia, the Astors and the Draytons, and the members of Ward McAllister's social *clique de la crème* have been set agog by the explosion.



MRS. J. COLEMAN DRAYTON.

The principal events which have led to the disclosure of the Ahmed domestic relations of Mr. J. Coleman Drayton, who is the husband of Mrs. William Astor's daughter, Augusta, transpired a few weeks ago on the other side of the Atlantic, and the news reached here in cable despatches published this morning.

The affair culminated in a challenge to mortal combat, issued by young Mr. Drayton to his former bosom friend and companion, Hallett Alspor Borrows, son of Vice-President Samuel Borrows of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, whom he accuses of sustaining improper relations towards Mrs. Drayton and of wrecking his domestic happiness.

The duel was averted, after a prolonged negotiation between the seconds of the two principals, as a result of which Mr. Borrows's representatives decided that they could not allow him to fight Mr. Drayton, on the ground that the latter had forfeited all right to demand reparation for his injury through an appeal to arms because he had allowed too long a time to elapse since the first cause of offense was given, and further, because the injured party had accepted and enjoyed an annual monetary consideration as the price of his silence, which absolutely debarred him from any reparation under the code of honor.

This conclusion, which was arrived at in Paris about the middle of February, by no means satisfied Mr. Drayton, who sees to have been hunting for Mr. Borrows's sword and he threatened to brand the latter as a coward and a scoundrel, a threat which he has not yet apparently carried out, though all arrangements for the proposed duel were dropped at the time.

**MORTAL ENEMIES ON THE MAJESTIC.**  
By a strange coincidence both Mr. Drayton and Mr. Borrows are passengers on the White Star liner Majestic, which is now bound for New York. It is believed that the two men have been keeping watch on each other ever since the failure of the proceedings under the code, and that when Mr. Drayton took passage on the Majestic at Liverpool, Mr. Borrows posted to Queenstown with Harry Vane Milbank, one of his seconds, and boarded the steamer when she sailed.

**WILL THERE BE A MID-OCEAN TRAGEDY?**  
The thought of what may happen on board ship before the Majestic reaches New York suggests dreadful possibilities, and a bloody tragedy on the high seas is regarded as not improbable by those who know the desperate character of the dispute between the two young men.

Another story is to the effect that Mr. Borrows did not know his enemy was on board the Majestic, but that he missed the vessel at Liverpool and went on to Queenstown in accordance with plans he had made for sailing in that ship. In that event, the presence of both men aboard the Majestic on her present trip would be purely accidental.

**MRS. DRAYTON'S CHILDREN TAKEN FROM HER.**  
Since the arrangements for the duel fell through Mr. Drayton, who returned to London, where his wife was staying, took his three children away from her and sent them to Wales, where he has friends. Mrs. Drayton is still in London, living at Mayfair, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Astor, are at the present time in Paris.

Mr. Drayton was taken abroad last Fall and is said to be Mr. Borrows' guest during the winter in response to an invitation sent by Mrs. Drayton. It was to avoid Borrows that Drayton took his family abroad, it is said.

**TO BUY DRAYTON'S SILENCE.**

Although the pair had been on intimate terms for many years, Mr. Drayton had never made any objection until a comparatively short time ago, when he complained to Mr. and Mrs. Astor that he was sick of the Borrows' attentions to their daughter, although Borrows had always declared that his affection for Mrs. Drayton was purely platonic.

The result was that the Astors agreed to pay Drayton \$5,000 a year and \$15,000 a year for the support of the children, who should remain under Mrs. Drayton's care, but that if she continued her acquaintance with Borrows the children and their \$15,000 a year should be placed in Mr. Drayton's charge.

In January Mr. Drayton surprised his wife and Mr. Borrows lunching together at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. He had a couple of detectives with him.

"Abi caught you again! When are you two going to bolt?" was all he said, and then left the place.

**LOOKING FOR A DUEL.**  
It was not long after this that he began his correspondence with Mr. Borrows, looking to a meeting upon the field of honor. First he invited Mr. Borrows to go to Paris to arrange matters, and the latter, after some parleying, consented.

Several meetings took place between Mr. Drayton and Mr. Borrows, and M. F. Cheverie, who represented Mr. Drayton and H. Vane Milbank and Edward Fox, whom Mr. Borrows named as his seconds.

The two first-named gentlemen are members of the Paris *salle d'armes*, while Mr. Cheverie is a noted lawyer. An extraordinary record, and Edward Fox, also an Englishman and formerly a New York reporter, rejoices in the sobriquet of "Modoc."

Fox, which he earned, by going to the Indian camp during the Modoc war and interviewing the chiefs who were on the war path.

**THE DEEL BROKEN OFF.**

The negotiations for the duel were broken off after Mr. Drayton corresponded for some time with the American Consul, whose seconds justified their refusal to allow him to fight Mr. Drayton by securing the opinions of Mr. Astor's second, Mr. Ward McAllister, and two of the most noted lawyers in France upon the requirements of the code, after consulting to them the facts of the controversy.

It was finally agreed to refer the matter to a jury of honor—a arbitration which had been assented to by Mr. Drayton's seconds; but Mr. Drayton refused to consent to it, and it was then agreed to let the preexisting notes stand.

**OPINIONS OF CODE EXPRESS.**

Mr. Schell's opinion of the case was expressed as follows:

"I do not longer any longer where there has been trifling when honor has not been completely sold. As to the rights and insults of a man born to the hope of gain, they are irreconcileable, without right and without import."

The Due de Morigny took the same view of the case.

"I consider this person as having dishonored himself in his action. Having put the question of interest before that of an insult to his wife, he has shown that he is not content limited with the contempt which his conduct has occasioned."

After this, of course, there was nothing left to do but to let the duel stand, as the parties desired to carry it out in some other way.

Both he and Mr. Borrows are known to be expert swordsmen, but he was not entirely by the advice of his seconds in the matter.

**A RECORD OF SECOND BATTLE.**

It is related of Harry Vane Milbank, one of Mr. Drayton's seconds, that, although he is only thirty years old, he has run through a fortune of \$1,000,000, and that, while in Paris, he was so successful in his efforts to get his second to content himself with the contempt which his conduct has occasioned."

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**RELATIONS OF THE DRAYTONS.**

Mess Auguste Astor and J. Coleman Drayton were married last year against the wishes of Mr. and Mrs. Drayton, and the former took up his abode in New York, while the husband, brother and father of a German lady—with regard to whom he has always declared that he was entirely innocent—and the three of them, though he was twice dangerously wounded himself.

**THE YOUNG WIFE LIBERTY.**

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